

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PORT M 00253 020004Z POSS DUPE  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DLOS-06  
SAL-01 OES-06 /043 W  
-----021011 101110/14  
R 280420Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2110  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT MORESBY 0253

STATE FOR INR/OIL/B AND LOS

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PLOS PINT  
SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON PNG DELEGATE TO LOS CONFERENCE

REF: A) STATE 23701, B) RIDDLE/EASTON LETTER JAN 14,1977

1. BIOGRAPHIC DATA FOLLOWS ON GEOFFREY PRESTON MOSSISON  
DABB, PNG DELEGATE TO LOS CONFERENCE:

BORN: GEELONG, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA, OCT 17,1938;

MARRIED (1968)- NO CHILDREN.

EDUCATED: GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL AND MELBOURNE  
UNIVERSITY (BACHELOR OF LAWS 1960); MASTER OF LAWS  
(LONDON, 1971).

ADMITTED BARRISTER AND SOLICITOR IN VICTORIA, PAPUA  
NEW GUINEA AND SOLOMONS.

EMPLOYMENT: AS SOLICITOR, MELBOURNE, 1962. BY PAPUA  
NEW GUINEA GOVERNMENT FROM 1962, CHIEFLY IN LAW REFORM  
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AND LEGAL POLICY FIELDS. SINCE 1973 ADVISER ON  
INTERNATIONAL LAW TO DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND TRADE.

LAW OF THE SEA: MEMBER AUSTRALIA/PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
DELEGATION SEABED COMMITTEE GENEVA 1973; LOS CONFERENCE  
CARACAS 1974, GENEVA 1975. PAPUA NEW GUINEA DELEGATION

NEW YORK, 1976, SPRING AND SUMMER SESSIONS. MEMBER SEVERAL DELEGATIONS TO BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS INDONESIA/PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND AUSTRALIA/PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

2. DABB IS EXTREMELY ARTICULATE AND WELL INFORMED. WE WOULD SUSPECT THAT HE HAS A HIGH LEVEL OF SKILL AND EFFECTIVENESS IN CONFERENCE POSITIONS. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE IT IS DABB HIMSELF WHO HAS TAKEN GENERAL GPNG ATTITUDES AND FORMULATED THEM INTO SPECIFIC POSITION REGARDING LOS ISSUES. WE SUSPECT HE IS A PRIME INNOVATOR IN DEVELOPING MOST GPNG POSITIONS AND WOULD HAVE INDEPENDENCE FROM OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS OF HIS GOVERNMENT ON MOST MINOR ISSUES. WE SUSPECT THAT HAVING DEVELOPED THE MAIN SUBSTANTIVE POSITIONS FOR GPNG, HE WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO ABANDON THEM WITHOUT FULLY EXPLAINING REASONS THEREFORE AND RECEIVING CONCURRENCE FROM GPNG. HE IS EXPATRIATE AND HIS POSITION/PROMINENCE IN PNG IS RESULT OF HIS CONSIDERABLE ABILITY AND DESIRE TO PROMOTE LEGITIMATE GPNG OBJECTIVES. HE HAS FAVORABLE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES, IS SKILLED AT VERBAL ARGUMENT, AND EXTREMELY FRANK IN PROMOTING GPNG POSITIONS. HE HAS EXCELLENT RECALL, HAS STUDIED THE ISSUES IN DEPTH, HAS A DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF POSITIONS OF OTHER PACIFIC STATES AND SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED AS A NEGOTIATOR. HE CERTAINLY HAS BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF ENTIRE LOS SCENE THAN DOES AMB MATANE, WHOSE BIO IS ALREADY AVAILABLE DEPT, AND WE WOULD EXPECT THAT MATANE WILL DRAW EXTENSIVELY ON DABB'S BACKGROUND AND SKILLS.

3. EMBASSY WILL POUCH SPECIFIC VIEWS ON GPNG ON MAJOR LOS  
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ISSUES SOONEST.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 28-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977PORTM00253  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770071-0656  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PORT MORESBY  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t1977022/aaaaaccv.tel  
**Line Count:** 99  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 11dd60c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 23701  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20-Jul-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3260713  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON PNG DELEGATE TO LOS CONFERENCE  
**TAGS:** PLOS, PINT, (DABB, GEOFFREY P)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/11dd60c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009